

**Battalion 101 at Jozefow, Poland, 13th July 1942 (from 1968 Court proceedings)**

Source: University of Hamburg

First they drove together all the inhabitants of the Jewish quarter, who could walk, into the market square... The uniformed police forced their way in, and searched the houses. Those unable to walk were shot in their beds as they had been ordered. The streets and houses were filled with the noise of the shootings and the bellowed commands of the police as they evicted the people from their houses. Dead bodies lay everywhere, in the houses and on the street of the Jewish quarter... With clubbings and yellings the Jews were gradually driven together into the market square...

Then began the transportation of the Jews. Around 30 Jews were loaded onto a lorry and driven, under guard, to the woods. There the Jews had to dismount and stand in a row, guarded by uniformed police. Then began the shootings on one side of a clearing. While one group carried out the shootings, the other collected new victims from the unloading point, where new lorries continuously arrived, laden with Jews...

The Jews were collected from the unloading point by the execution group. Each individual rifleman picked a new victim, face to face, from the row of waiting victims and accompanied him to the place of execution. There the Jews had to lie down facing the ground. They were killed with a rifle shot in the back of the neck. The riflemen were commanded to fix bayonets and to place them between the victim's shoulder blades to assist their aim. The places of execution in the woods were constantly changed... The shootings at close quarters produced terrible wounds... In spite of this the victims appeared... so calm and composed on their way to their executions that the witnesses still regarded this conduct with a mixture of incomprehension and admiration today. The victims were by no means exclusively Polish Jews. A large number were from Germany, having been forcibly expelled from places in northern Germany. The witness V. spoke with a Jewish woman, who exclaimed: 'You can't do this, I'm also from Hamburg'. The accused B. reported that a Jewish

woman had said to him: 'What are you doing here, how is it possible that Germans are like this?' An elderly man informed the accused B. that he came from Bremen and that he had fought in the First World War.

The mission was completed by the late afternoon. In total they had killed 1500 men, women and children.